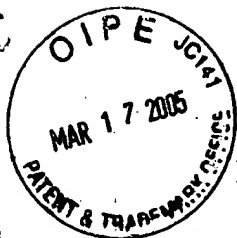


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PATENT APPLICATION

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES**

In re application of:

Hirotooshi MAEGAWA, et al.

Group Art Unit: 3621

Serial No.: 09/148,832

Examiner: John W. Hayes

Filed: September 4, 1998

Docket No.: 103203-08003

For: NETWORK SYSTEM, DATA DISTRIBUTION METHOD, AND
RECORDING MEDIUM ON WHICH DISTRIBUTION USE DATA IS
RECORDED AND WHICH CAN BE READ BY COMPUTER

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

March 17, 2005

**PETITION FOR WAIVER OF RULES AND
LEAVE TO FILE REPLY BRIEF AND REQUEST ORAL HEARING**

With respect to the above captioned patent application, a Reply Brief and a Request for Oral Hearing were due on February 17, 2005. However, Applicants' correspondence to counsel with instructions concerning the Reply Brief and the Request for Oral Hearing were inadvertently lost, and thus neither have been timely filed.

More specifically, Applicants' counsel operates two offices, one in Washington, D.C. and the other in New York. While Applicants' correspondence regarding the above patent application were received in the Washington, D.C. office, such correspondence was unintentionally and inadvertently lost in transit to the New York office where the attorney prosecuting the application is located. Applicants' counsel did not become aware of the lost

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office via Express Mail on this date.

March 17, 2005

Date

Marylee Jenkins

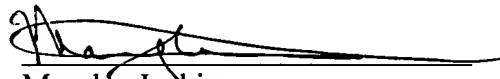
correspondence until after the deadline for filing a Reply Brief and a Request for Oral Hearing. Applicants' counsel has taken steps to prevent such an event from occurring in the future.

In view of the above, Applicants' counsel respectfully petitions for waiver of the rules and leave to file a Reply Brief and to request an Oral Hearing in the above patent application. In order to expedite this petition, the Reply Brief, Request for Oral Hearing and appropriate fee for filing such request are accordingly enclosed with this petition. Authorization is granted to charge counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, referencing Attorney Docket No. 103203-08003, for any fees necessary for this petition.

If any further information is required, it is respectfully requested that Applicants' undersigned counsel be contacted at the telephone number indicated below.

Dated: March 17, 2005

Respectfully submitted,


Marylee Jenkins
Registration No. 37,645
Attorney for Applicants

Customer No. 004372
ARENT FOX, PLLC
1675 Broadway
New York, New York 10019
Tel: (212) 484-3928
Fax: (212) 484-3990